

ACTS & FACTS



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**VICTORY
OVER THE
WICKED**

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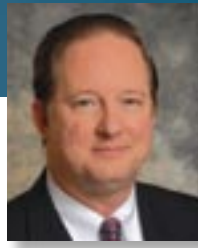
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Victory in Jesus

Asaph was a gifted music leader in ancient Israel, so he was used to seeing many worshipers come and go in the temple. While he didn't write a tell-all book about his experiences, he did pen a few psalms in the Bible, and one in particular (Psalm 73) reveals his observations about the wicked man and how he handled his circumstances.

What Asaph couldn't accept was the open disdain for the Word of God. Truth was being trampled by those who should have known better, but who were more interested in public recognition than in godliness. At first, Asaph was envious of the wicked because of their apparent success (Psalm 73:3). But later, he realized that God did not ignore the wicked; judgment would eventually come (v. 17). And Asaph finally learned to entrust victory over the wicked to God, who knows best when and how to make things right (v. 28).

Our feature article this month by Dr. Henry Morris III reminds us that while there is a battle against God's people and God's truth, ultimate victory for the righteous is assured by God Himself. We are to be faithful messengers of the truth and wait upon the Lord to bring the victory. Read "Victory Over the Wicked" on pages 4-5.

Does E.T. really exist? Some scientists think so, and they are looking for other life forms through the revitalized SETI radio telescope, newly funded by independent donors. Dr. Larry Vardiman discusses the details of this new search for E.T. in his article on pages 10-11.

The new year is already well underway and the work of the ministry continues here at ICR as we teach the wonders of our Creator

around the world through radio, the Internet, our many publications, and our education programs, like the School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA). Established in 2009 as ICR's new graduate school for advanced ministry training, SOBA continues to impact students around the world. In-depth courses tackle the tough topics of science, Scripture, and Christian education—all with the aim to equip students with information and strategy for communicating truth in the real world. With our rolling admissions and asynchronous enrollment, students may start as soon as they are accepted into the program. Working professionals find SOBA convenient for their busy schedules, as all coursework is completed online. Talk to an admissions representative today and begin building a solid foundation for ministry leadership and impact. Call 800.337.0375 or email msmith@icr.edu. Visit our school online at www.icr.edu/soba and take a virtual tour today!

And for those working in K-12 science education, don't forget to keep up to date with practical science education resources through the Science Essentials education blog, hosted by Dr. Rhonda Forlow. Visit www.science-essentials.org.

February is a month to think about giving and receiving love, which is a nice reminder about the love-gift God gave all of us, His Son. ICR exists because of this truth and because of your faithful support of our work. As you celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved one, don't forget to express your love to our Creator, Redeemer, and King!

Lawrence E. Ford, Sr.
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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VICTORY OVER THE WICKED

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I I I , D . M I N .



T

here is a painting by Italian artist Guido Reni (1575–1642) of the Archangel Michael that pictures the ultimate defeat of Satan. A miniaturized sculpture of that painting stands in my office, reminding me that the “real” battle is being overseen by our Creator God, and that one day, one of His angelic captains will throw the Adversary into the bottomless pit for eternity.

No matter how well the wicked seem to be succeeding over the efforts of the righteous, ultimately they will not win! God promises that the wicked will be destroyed and punished. He also promises that the righteous will be victorious and rewarded. Both of these promises provide us with assurance of God’s victory—not only in His eternal plan, but also in and through the lives of His precious saints.

God will not forsake His beloved saints. They may *seem* forgotten for a season, but they are never out of His sight. (See Psalm 33:18-19; 34:15; Job 36:7; 1 Peter 3:12.) God is protecting His beloved. God *does* have a plan in His sovereign and eternal mind. God *will* work all things “together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Frustration is inevitable as the saints of God battle the forces of evil, for though we are certain of ultimate victory, the pain and pressure of torment are nonetheless real as the “devices” (Isaiah 32:7) of the wicked take their toll on God’s people. The Lord will reduce the plans of the wicked to naught (Psalm 33:10), but while those plans are effective, there is still much hurt.

Psalm 37 is focused on the solutions that will cure the “fretting” that comes in the heat of battle. Anger is a natural result when God’s people confront those who would dare lift up their hand against the Lord of the universe. Envy of evil’s seemingly easy success is bound

to explode from the heart of the righteous saint who loves the Kingdom and is in anguish because of the triumphs of the wicked.

But if reactionary anger is not to become sin, it must not be allowed to continue (Ephesians 4:26). The cure for such negative reaction lies in the basic focus of our relationship with our Savior.

Trust is the most basic. Both the Hebrew and Greek words have the meaning of “confidence” or “boldness,” and are often used in such a way that would imply that we are to “gain support” and “lean on” the One in whom we trust. The expanded definition of trust is in Proverbs 3:5-8.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

But to merely have great confidence in the God of creation is not enough. We must “do good” (Psalm 37:3).

The entire New Testament book of James is devoted to this theme. “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Jesus asked, “Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?” (Luke 6:46). “O that there were such an heart in them,” God told Moses, “that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

If we would enjoy the blessings of God, we must embrace the plan of God. If we are to expect a realization of the promise that we will “dwell” and “be fed” (Psalm 37:37), then we must submit to the instructions of our Lord who told us to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

When we trust the Lord to give us what we need as we “do good,” is it any wonder that He who knows all and owns all will give us “the

desires” of our hearts (Psalm 37:4)? If my heart longs for the “kingdom of God and his righteousness,” why should I marvel when the King of kings grants my desires? God hates the wicked and their efforts (Psalm 5:4-5). Why should I be surprised when He answers my prayer for their overthrow?

Paul spends much of his letter to the Philippian church describing the interrelationship between the Creator Savior and the mind,



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heart, and lifestyle of the saint of God who has given his life over to God. “Being confident of this very thing,” Paul says, “that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). And while admitting that he had not yet “attained,” Paul is so focused on the work of the Kingdom that he forgets “those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

Once again, the warning and command for us is to not focus on the circumstances of the apparent success of the wicked person, philosophy, or condition. We are to “rest” in the Lord. The Hebrew word used in Psalm 37:7 carries the sense of stunned silence. It is often translated as “silent,” “cease,” or “cut off.” From the context of the psalm, we are to be “stunned into silence” at what the Lord will do to the wicked who dare to set themselves up against the Lord’s stewards.

No matter what may happen in time and during the circumstances of this life, God has promised to bring such an ultimate righteous conclusion to the matter that we will be “stunned” by what He does. God’s people “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12) if they will live for Him, but they will never be

abandoned (Hebrews 13:5).

The ultimate fulfillment is yet future, in the concluding activity of a righteous Judge and Savior who will conquer all enemies and set up His eternal Kingdom of righteousness (2 Peter 3:10-13). Every day, however, those who hold to the promise of eternal fulfillment must also deal with the onslaught of the Evil One and his minions who would destroy both the Lord’s people and the Lord’s Kingdom.

In spite of the apparent success of the wicked, we are to “wait on the LORD” (Psalm 37:34). The Holy Spirit’s choice of words in this verse is significant. The picture of the term *quvah* is used to describe the “binding together” of strings for a chord and the “collecting” of

the water and dry land into separate areas on the third day of creation. It does not mean to hang around and wait. It does not imply useless boredom, waiting for something to happen. The essence of the term is to be alert—*watching* the events and activities of the Lord to react to His timing and His direction. Indeed, the word is translated “look” as often as it is any other English term.

Psalm 37 concludes with a wonderful promise:

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors *shall* be destroyed together: the end of the wicked *shall* be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD *shall* help them, and deliver them; he *shall* deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. (Psalm 37:37-40, emphasis added)

May these “shalls” of God’s Word strengthen your heart and give you a clearer perspective as you work His work in His Kingdom. ●

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.



Internal Telomere Sequences: Accidents of Evolution or Features of Functional Design?

J E F F R E Y T O M K I N S , P H . D .

The life sciences research team at ICR has recently focused on the cell's telomere features, a chromosome end-capping system found in the cells of plants and animals that provides a variety of important features to protect the ends of linear chromosomes. The telomere is a uniquely designed mechanism that makes higher forms of cell life possible, in contrast to single-cell bacteria that have simpler, circular chromosomes.¹

Telomeres are complex structures involving RNA, DNA, and proteins that have both structural and dynamic regulatory features. The basic chromosomal DNA sequence of the telomere is a very long string of 6-base subunits (TTAGGG) that are repeated in tandem and can extend up to 5,000 to 15,000 bases in total length.²

Many scientists were surprised when short sections of telomere sequences also began to be discovered in the internal regions of chromosomes. At first, scientists thought that these internal telomere sequences (ITLS) were genetic mistakes and served no useful purpose.³ In fact, a number of scientists thought that ITLS could be dangerous and tried to associate them with diseases, cancer, and chromosome breakage.

However, later research showed that these anomalies were primarily associated with other sequences that were physically close to the ITLS and had nothing to do with their presence.⁴ Still other studies have shown that the presence of telomere sequences within internal regions of chromosomes affects gene expression by changing the conformational (3-dimensional) properties of the DNA.⁵ As is typical of the evolutionary paradigm, scientists started out with the premise that ITLS were freak accidents of nature, disruptive to the genome, and most likely associated with diseases. As is also typical of the evolutionary paradigm, despite this negative approach, evolutionists concluded that these structures have function and purpose within the genome.

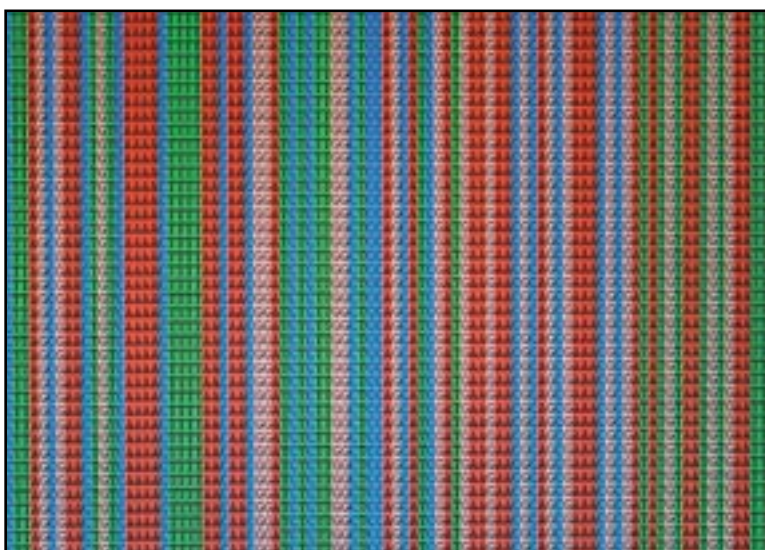
At ICR, we are attempting to more specifically characterize ITLS sequences and generate a comprehensive picture of these sites in the human genome. Software has been developed that scans entire chromosomes and identifies and characterizes ITLS.⁶ Our preliminary data indicate that there are many tens of thousands of these within every chromosome (not including the telomere end-caps). We are attempting to identify these ITLS and see what types of genomic patterns they are arranged in.

Perhaps the ITLS are needed to help control the complex arrangement of DNA within the cell's nucleus. The TTAGGG repeat forms a specific type of unique quadruplex structure, and the telomere sequence may be critical as a functional feature in helping to determine the proper 3-D structure of the genome. The study of gene expression within 3-D fields of view is a new area of biology now yielding many exciting results.⁷ The genome operates in a highly complicated 3-D system with multiple levels of highly designed control features. Perhaps the usage of telomere repeats sprinkled throughout the internal regions of chromosomes is a key functional part of creation's overall design. ●

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Dr. Tomkins is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in Genetics from Clemson University.



ICR FEBRUARY EVENTS

■ FEBRUARY 2-3

Birmingham, AL – Association of Christian Schools International Convention
(N. Jeanson) 800.367.5391

■ FEBRUARY 2-3

Galveston, TX – Association of Christian Schools International Convention
(R. Forlow) 800.367.5391

■ FEBRUARY 11

Portland, OR – Northwest Creation Conference
(R. Guliuzza)

■ FEBRUARY 12

Salem, OR – Salem Heights Church
(R. Guliuzza)

■ FEBRUARY 17-19

Grapeland, TX – Frontier Camp
(F. Sherwin) 936.544.3206

■ FEBRUARY 19

Fort Worth, TX – Fairpark Baptist Church
(J. Morris) 817.551.7256

■ FEBRUARY 24-26

Malta, MT – Community Church
(F. Sherwin) 406.654.2447

■ FEBRUARY 29

Johnson City, TN – First Christian Church
(H. Morris III) 423.232.5700

For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR Events Department at **800.337.0375** or **events@icr.org**. For information on attending ACSI conventions, visit www.acsi.org or call 800.367.5391.

ICR INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Education is a primary mission of the Institute for Creation Research. We seek to provide teachers with the tools they need to proclaim the accuracy and authority of God's Word, as well as the information to combat the errors that are rampant in our school systems.

One avenue for encouraging and instructing teachers has been our attendance at the annual regional conferences held by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) for teachers and administrators. This month, ICR will have speakers at the final two ACSI conventions of the season in Birmingham and Galveston.

What: Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Conventions

When: February 2-3, 2012

Who:



Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson
Research Associate, in Birmingham, Alabama



Dr. Rhonda Forlow
Education Specialist, in Galveston, Texas

For information on attending these conventions, visit www.acsi.org or call **800.367.5391**.

For more information on ICR's involvement in education, visit our new Science Essentials blog, which offers creation science resources and teaching aids that are up to date, accurate, and biblically sound. Go to www.science-essentials.org and sign up today to receive updates on the latest postings and blog activities.

The creation versus evolution controversy is ubiquitous—it's virtually everywhere. Evolutionists routinely and repeatedly provide the public with a counterfeit history of human origins, and that tall tale is so pervasive that it is literally hidden in plain view.¹

What if I Had Never Been Born?

Before we look at a couple of examples, let's consider first how God's creation is the most basic blessing that He has given to each one of us. If God did not make us to start with, no other blessing would matter. He created each one of us as unique individuals. Each human being was deliberately planned, foreknown, and provided for by God as the exact person He intended him or her to be.

While I was touring the World War II museums in Fredericksburg, Texas, recently, I considered this contingency: *What if* the two atomic bombs had not been dropped on Japan, catalyzing a quick surrender by the Japanese emperor and thereby ending World War II?² The Allies would have invaded the Japanese homeland with several hundreds of thousands of troops. In fact, hundreds of thousands of Purple Heart awards were already authorized for manufacture in anticipation of the expected casualties. Many hundreds of thousands would likely have been killed and/or wounded, with a million deaths, counting both sides, expected during the year to follow such an invasion. But Japan chose surrender rather than risk any more atomic bombs.

Had the war continued, my father would have been one of the U.S. Marines sent to invade Japan's shores. As my wife and I viewed the museum exhibits, I considered the possible end result of this scenario. My father may have been killed, so my siblings and I might have never been born. There are many such what-if scenarios that our minds cannot fully comprehend, but they pose no problem for God.³

Evolutionist Teaching Illustrated in Military History

During World War II, the Allies exerted great efforts to learn the military secrets of their adversaries. They monitored radio transmissions from Germany, Italy, and Japan, and then tried to decipher the encoded messages.⁴ Japanese officials stationed in Germany and in Italy reported military information to Japan, so the interception of their military transmissions—if and when the content could be accurately and timely deciphered—often provided military secrets not only of the Japanese, but also about the war machines of Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy. Consequently, American and British code-breakers carefully scrutinized whatever they could learn from military messages sent from Germany or Italy to Japan.

Allied researchers also sought intelligence from non-coded sources, such as local newspapers. One piece of intelligence displayed the strategic team spirit that was then developing between Japan and Italy. This intercepted information contained an evolutionary theme that should be

Hidden in Plain View: Evolution's Counterfeit History Is Everywhere

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., TH.D.



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familiar to readers of *Acts & Facts*:

The Foreign Office had no need of codebreakers to interpret many of the Japanese and German moves towards a grand alliance with Mussolini's Italy. Sujimura [a Japanese ambassador in Rome] was regarded as a moderate in Japanese terms, but in an interview with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, he spoke of an "identity of ideas" between Japan and Italy: "We consider ourselves to be in the same condition. Overpopulation creates for obvious reasons the right to occupy more territory and the rights of civilization demand that people install themselves in those areas where the inhabitants stand in need of human evolution."⁵

This quote shows that the Japanese leadership was using human evolution to rationalize Japan's ongoing conquest of Pacific and Indian Ocean countries. The "need" for human evolution made unprovoked military conquest acceptable; the supposedly under-evolved peoples of Korea, China, Indochina, and the Pacific islands needed to have their territories evolutionarily improved by being conquered by the Japanese, who, of course, were "superior" in their own human evolution.

Most Americans know that Adolf Hitler argued evolutionary science to justify his genocidal mass murders of Jews and Slavs, but many do not know that Japanese propagandists sang the same social Darwinism song before and during World War II. Evolutionary thinking is not limited to academics, television documentaries, and television ads selling insurance. Even Japanese military codes demonstrated the pervasiveness of evolutionist teaching.

Evolutionist Teaching Illustrated in Cuisine Literature

Evolutionary storytelling even taints cuisine literature. Consider this quotation from a recipe book featuring favorites from the Alpine countries:

Since the beginning of time man has been preoccupied with obtaining meat for his daily meals. At first he was limited to the hunting of wild animals, but with the birth of civilization the flesh of domesticated cows, pigs, and sheep also became available.⁶

This recipe book assumes an early history of humanity that clashes with the Genesis record. Genesis negates the myth of primitive cavemen limited to hunter-gatherer food acquisition. Cain, the first man born on earth, was a farmer; his younger brother Abel was a shepherd.⁷ Agriculture is as old as the first human family. Also, eating the flesh of animals—domestic or wild—was not a part of God's food program for humans until *after the Flood*.⁸ Yet, how casually secular literature assumes and portrays the mythology of human evolution in every form of literature—even cookbooks!

The True Nature of Nature: Testifying to Truth

Secular military politics and cookbooks aside, what is the real story of creation concerning the kind of world we live in and the kind of people we are? The Holy Bible provides true answers to these important questions about the real world and life itself. Jesus said, "Thy word is truth" (John

17:17). And it is the truth of the Scriptures that satisfies because it is really true! This life only makes sense when the Bible's answers are accepted and relied upon. It is only God's truth that satisfies the big questions about life, as Joe Macphee, a happy Hebridean man, learned:

I was born in the Hebridean island of Barra, one of a family of nine children.... My father, who was in the merchant navy, died in 1967 and my mother was left with nine children to attend to. It was a hard upbringing but a happy one.... In early 1988 I was beginning to notice things about the creation—it was suddenly becoming so beautiful that it would bring tears to my eyes.... In the Lord's providence I was directed to purchase a house in an area surrounded by Christians, who witnessed of their faith in Christ. Some of the stories they would tell me I would initially dismiss as lies but gradually I found myself believing them and in a strange way wanting to hear more and to have what these people had.⁹

The good news is that Joe Macphee learned what the Bible teaches about redemption in Christ Jesus, so he acquired real truth about God's creation and about his own life, including his need for Christ as his personal Savior. That was more than 20 years ago.¹⁰

There are many others like Joe who seek true answers—biblical answers—for questions to which our humanistic culture provides only deceptive distractions, like human evolution stories. Whether theistic or atheistic, such stories fuel unbiblical imaginations about human life, sometimes condoning immoral conduct in the name of needed evolutionary improvement. Evolutionary stories—the counterfeit history of God's creation—are propagated everywhere around us. Evolutionary teaching is so ubiquitous that we often don't recognize it when we read military history or a recipe book, because the false story of evolution is so casually, confidently, and constantly "hidden in plain view."

But God's truth is present everywhere for those with eyes to see it (Romans 10:17-18; Psalm 19:1-4). For more than 41 years, ICR has been showcasing and clarifying biblical answers about human life and God's creation. God's wonderful truth is only "hidden" from those who refuse the truth that He has freely provided in His Word. ●

References

1. Things can be "hidden in plain view" due to camouflage or familiarity; we ignore those things, focusing more on what attracts our immediate attention. See Jonathan Sarfati's "Colourblind squid camouflage" in the January-March 2012 issue of *Creation* magazine.
2. What is planned doesn't always occur. The two atomic bombs, dropped on August 6 and 9, 1945, were planned for Hiroshima and Kokura, respectively, but the Kokura bomb ("Fat Man") was dropped on Nagasaki instead. Six days later, Japan announced its unconditional surrender to the Allies.
3. Matthew 11:21-24. Christ spoke confidently of contingent cause-and-effect scenarios that humans could not know about.
4. Coded information is useless unless the recipient of that coded information has the capacity to both receive and recognize the coded message's meaning within a timeframe that permits useful action to be taken. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2011. DNA and RNA: Provisional Coding to "Reverse" God. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (3): 8-9.
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8. Compare Genesis 9:2-3 with Genesis 1:29.
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Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



SETI Radio Telescope Goes Back Online

LARRY VARDIMAN, PH.D.

The SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute announced December 5, 2011, that it will begin monitoring radio waves that it hopes might be sent out by life forms on a planet recently discovered by NASA. The Allen Telescope Array at Hat Creek Observatory near Redding, California, had been shut down since April 2011 for lack of funding by NASA, but has now raised monies from independent supporters and negotiated a deal with the U.S. Air Force in order to start operations once again.¹

The search for extraterrestrial life is one of the foundational missions of NASA that drives not only the SETI project but also motivates many of the missions to the planets.² Carl Sagan was a principal investigator of the Voyager program, one of the most successful early missions to fly by the planets of the solar system. The mission was heavily influenced by his interest in finding extraterrestrial life. The Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft

are currently at the outer edge of the solar system and carry plaques on them with a message to be read by any extraterrestrials who might find them.

Carl Sagan was a strong advocate of the search for extraterrestrial intelligence because he believed there was no evidence for God and that evolution explained our existence. He told me in 1994 on the 25th anniversary of the SETI program which he helped sponsor, “We’ve been looking for intelligent life beyond the earth for over 25 years now, but we haven’t found any. There must be something special about the earth. I would be happy to find even stupid life!”³

The SETI radio telescope was brought out of mothballs because of the recent report that Kepler-22b, an earth-like planet, was found orbiting the “habitable zone” of the sun-like star KIC 10593626 about 600 light-years from earth.^{4,5,6} The position of the field of view in the sky is in the Cygnus-Lyra region just above the galactic plane looking down the Orion arm of our galaxy. It was reported to be the

first planet with a measured radius to orbit the habitable zone of any star other than the sun.

Kepler-22b was discovered by the space telescope Kepler shown in Figure 1. Since its launch by NASA in 2009, over 1,200 candidate planets have been analyzed in sizes ranging from smaller than earth to twice as large as Jupiter and with orbital periods from less than a day to more than a year. There have been other planets reported within the last few years, but one or more of their properties seem to challenge the claim that they are fully earth-like. For example, planet Gliese 581g was claimed to be in the Goldilocks zone (not too hot and not too cold) where liquid water could exist on its surface. ICR Science Writer Brian Thomas discussed the problems with this claim in an earlier *Acts & Facts* article.⁷ Also, another planet near the star, LkCa 15, was said to be evolving. Thomas discussed the problems with this claim in an online ICR news article.⁸



Figure 1. Kepler telescope launched by NASA in 2009 to search for earth-like planets. (Image credit: NASA)

Attempts to find other worlds that originate and support life continue to turn up empty. Even if such a planet is found with the proper conditions to support life—a rocky surface, temperatures between the freezing and boiling points of water, moderate pressure, appropriate gases, and no dangerous radiation—it still needs life to originate in some way. The theory of evolution requires life to be generated from inanimate materials and then change into more complex forms. The origin of *dumb life* is only half the battle for evolutionists. The formation of *intelligent life* is the other half. But, if any life can be found elsewhere, evolutionists believe it will make

the case that evolution produced life on earth.

Up until now, no other planet with the proper conditions for life to exist has been found. But even if one is found, the theory of evolution has not been proven until life has also been found. Consequently, the SETI radio telescope will be trained on the planets the Kepler Project identifies as earth-like to increase the odds of detecting life. Isn't it strange that astronomers are looking through their telescopes and searching the heavens for a signal containing information that indicates intelligent life exists somewhere beyond earth, while biologists are peering through their microscopes denying that the information they see in DNA molecules was placed there by an intelligent Creator?

Many verses in the Bible tell us that God created man to exercise dominion over this beautiful planet. There is certainly something special about earth. Scripture also implies that God created life on earth alone, not anywhere else in the universe. One verse allows me to say with confidence that intelligent life will not be found elsewhere—"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). If Christ died only *once* here on earth, He could not have died for intelligent life on planets elsewhere. Otherwise, God would be unjust in saving only us on earth. Since God is just and righteous altogether, we on earth must be the only intelligent beings anywhere. ●

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Dr. Vardiman is Senior Research Scientist, Astro/Geophysics at the Institute for Creation Research.





Darwin's Sacred Imposter

Unmasking the Deception of Natural Selection

Answering Questions about the Fallacy of Natural Selection

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

Editor's note: Several important questions have been received by ICR's editorial staff in response to our series in *Acts & Facts* addressing natural selection.¹ This article answers those questions.



Natural selection has been considered a settled issue. Why take it on, and what role do organisms' innate capabilities play in demonstrating that natural selection is a fallacy?

Exposing natural selection as a fallacy is immensely important to science and theology. The principle value is showing that the vital mechanism of evolution—natural selection—is a phantasm. Initially, Darwin was severely criticized about his notion that nature somehow “selects for” organisms in a way similar to how human breeders truly select for organisms—a metaphor continually condemned as incongruent.^{1a} Recognizing that selection was always an act of intelligence, and given that nature is unconscious, thinking critics knew Darwin's use of “selection” was fundamentally misleading and that he could never produce

tangible demonstrations of how environments select. A phony metaphor was the only evidence he offered. He was accused of deifying nature.

Therefore, many scientists resisted Darwin's selection for over 70 years. Incredibly, with still no empirical evidence that a real selection actually happens, contemporary supporters of natural selection now think that they actually “see” selection happen via the actions of environmental stresses. ICR has engaged these basic misperceptions over the past several months. Most people recognize the whole illusion of natural selection when it is uncovered in lectures or in print. But in exchanges with die-hard believers in selection, letting go of the word “selection” seems to them tantamount to denouncing one's scientific status or to a denial of evolution—which it would almost certainly be for evolutionists. But what is to be gained, at least for scientific creationists, by exposing the fact that environments cannot really “select”?

Consider what is left of Darwin's theory on the origin of species by means of natural selection when it is revealed that nothing really exists as an *external force* pressuring popula-

tions of organisms and driving evolutionary change. When creationists show that there is no real *exogenous* selector (or process) that “is a powerful molding force”² operating on organisms for evolution, then “the exclusive direction-giving factor to evolution,”³ as currently understood, would be dead. What alternative evolutionary mechanism is seriously being advanced with the potential to explain nature's design or captivate minds other than that environments are somehow capable of selecting inhabitants characterized as the “fittest”?

We will convey that, based on current data, the power to overcome environmental stresses—called adaptation—is strictly an *organism-based* informational capacity programmed into organisms by the Lord to enable them to fill environmental niches. We will then stop diverting credit from the Lord to something like “strong positive selection,” and start underscoring how every aspect of trait expression is really *due to* an organism's highly complex systems designed to reproduce variable heritable traits.

Precise scientific language will replace “selection's” intrinsic fairy-tale verbiage that



is currently used to explain interactions at the organism-environment interface. Ill-defined statements like “natural selection rewards” certain parasites, “punishes” other organisms, or “weeds out” the “losers” will be replaced by measurements of environmental exposures, organismal traits that are suitable to exposures, and genetics underlying those traits. People will know why the words “natural selection rewards” are no more accurate in describing what transpires at the organism-environment interface than “Mother Nature favors.”

“Purpose”—an inherent attribute of intelligent design—will be emphasized. Purpose in nature is repudiated by selection-based thinking, which directly contradicts a clearly stated purpose by the Lord (Genesis 1:22, 28; 8:17; 9:1, 7) for organisms to fill environmental niches.

We will cease to assert that something exists *due to* it being “positively selected,” and also stop expressing mysterious thinking that ascribes false willful ability—the ability to select—to inanimate environmental stresses. We will then stop stating that inanimate things have conscious-like powers—which is the very definition of idolatry.



You have written that a true assessment of adaptation at the organism-environment interface is only understood from the organism’s side and that supporters of selection see it essentially backward.¹ How important is the environment’s role in the mechanism of natural selection?

When Darwin popularized natural selection as the mechanism to explain the origination of species, his new explanation was appropriately challenged by skeptical naturalists. Astoundingly, in spite of today’s broad unquestioned belief in selection, two early questions still remain unanswered: 1) Since “selecting” is always an act of intelligence, what justified Darwin’s application of “selection” to unconscious nature; and 2) where was any tangible thing in nature that actually did the selecting? Darwin

failed to produce anything more than metaphors, thus he faced complaints that his mysterious “natural selection” was nothing more than a disguised deification of nature.

An astute English biologist, Thomas Huxley, knew “selection” was the vital word that needed to be defended in Darwin’s mechanism. In 1861 he authored another metaphor-heavy defense of natural selection. Yet, his key argument to justify applying “selection” to unconscious nature has been given continual assent, though variously expressed, by all advocates of selection:

No one doubts at all that particular circumstances [nature or ecology in context] may be more favourable for one plant and less so for another, and the moment you admit that, you admit the selective power of nature.⁴

Contained in this apparent unarguably self-evident statement of reality is an exceptionally shrewd twist in circular thinking that seductively diverts a mind from perceiving both its unreality and mysticism. This trick is bolstered when people refuse to even initiate careful examinations of how they could be fooled, since admissions of being fooled are very humbling. So how does all of this work out in the thinking of those who are committed to believing that environments favor one organism over another?

All supporters of selection assign one absolute non-negotiable attribute: Environmental stresses constitute “the selective power of nature” as *the principal* operative force leading to the existence of an organism’s traits to solve environmental problems. Basically, ecology drives the frequency of traits in populations.⁵ One expert notes:

What then about theories of evolution? Adaptationism, as we read it, is also a one-level theory: it purports to explain the fixation of phenotypic properties [traits] as the effects of selection by ecological variables.⁶

Or as eminent evolutionist Leigh Van Valen put it, “Evolution is the control of

development by ecology.”⁷ Belief that environments are the operative power playing a paramount role in adaptation is also called “environmentalism.”

Environmentalism frames the inanimate environment as an *external* “selecting” agent that “selects for or against,” “pressures,” or “favors.” The existence of an organism’s traits is *owing to* or *due to* external environmental stresses. For instance, even after deciphering elaborate innate mechanisms that control mouse coat color, Harvard researchers paradoxically stated, “In the Sand Hills of Nebraska, deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) have evolved a dorsal coat that closely matches their local habitat... which is probably *due to* selection against avian predation.”⁸ Or, as an evolutionary developmental biologist sums up, “Natural selection is often best described as a ‘just so story’ of adaptations: finches beaks changed *due to* the type of food available, moths got darker *because of* pollution, etc.”⁹

In environmentalist paradigms, historical expression of traits in a population is at the beck and call of power found in ecological variables, which implies causation, which is the direction-giving force necessary for evolution. Inanimate environments are seen as having power—an informational power born of their ability to select—so that “it may be said that natural selection is daily and hourly scrutinising, throughout the world, every variation, even the slightest; rejecting that which is bad, preserving and adding up all that is good; silently and insensibly working, whenever and wherever opportunity offers.”¹⁰ Selection is an operative force. Thus, evolutionist Sean Carroll recounts selection’s force in modern synthetic evolutionary theory: “At the time of its formation and until recently, we could say that forms do change, and that natural selection is a force, but we could say nothing about *how* forms change.”¹¹ And Dr. Jerry Coyne believes selection “is a powerful molding force.”¹² Unfortunately, that perception of the environment is incorrect—it portrays the role of the environment as being the exact opposite of what it truly is.



What's wrong with the environmentalist approach? Environmental stresses are real and they have to play a role in adaptation, at least as a passive filter, don't they?

The reality is that the environment *just is*—it exists as temporal space of mindless, impartial, unconscious conditions to which *organisms are exposed* at their interface. Time, space, matter/energy, and organisms are created as *conditions* (Genesis 1:1-2) which, barring supernatural intervention (e.g., Numbers 16:31-32; Daniel 6:22; Jonah 1:4, 17), don't act and certainly possess no "selective" capacity as the word is properly understood. This is the first of several major changes in thinking that must take place.

It's easy to think that environments are active in doing things—often bad—to organisms since we can see organisms die "at the hands" of environmental influences. Thus, it's recognizably hard to see things differently from our long-term conditioning. Humans drown when held under water, are totally disrupted on impact after falling off a cliff, die if kept naked in sub-freezing weather, and are poisoned after eating certain plants. But fish live while held under water, eagles fly off cliffs, and many animals flourish in sub-freezing weather or thrive on plants toxic to humans. It should be immediately clear that environmental stresses are nothing more than conditions to which organisms are exposed—and in and of themselves are neither "favorable" nor "unfavorable."

This actuality unfolds by unpacking Huxley's self-evident assertion regarding selection: "No one doubts at all that particular circumstances may be more favourable for one plant and less so for another, and the moment you admit that, you admit the selective power of nature." First, note it is self-evident simply because it is circular. The key is recognizing that genuine "selections" are just one manifestation of favoring one thing over another. Thus, the first conclusion—"No one doubts at all [i.e., everyone admits] that particular circumstances

[i.e., nature] may be more favourable for one plant and less so for another [i.e., selects]"—is just a more verbose restatement of the last conclusion: "You admit the selective power of nature." This circular fallacy, regardless of how it is phrased, is implicit in *all* characterizations of selection since Darwin's time.

Second, the criticism still stands that "selection" is wrongly applied to unconscious nature, since the only justification furnished was the misapplication of the word favor—another willful act—to unconscious circumstances.

Third, and most important, evolution's crucial selective power of nature centers on the assertion that "particular circumstances may be more favourable for one plant and less so for another" as being truly factual—habitually backed up with evidence like "no one doubts at all." While advocates of selection believe this is so obvious they won't give it a second thought, people should doubt this fundamental premise since it is the *opposite* of reality. In actuality, whether or not a word like "favorable" can be used to describe it, what happens at the organism-exposure interface *depends solely on the organism's traits* and how *they* interact with the exposure and has nothing to do with the exposure itself. This is the second major change in thinking that must take place.

Environmental conditions possess no intrinsic agency, and no operative verb such as "select," "operate," "filter," "pressure," or even "damage" can ever be attached to them. This is the exact opposite approach of environmentalism and it is not based on a pedantic application of grammar. Interactions at the organism-condition interface are described by words determined by the *organism's traits*.

For instance, given exposure to the exact same condition, Organism A's traits metabolize it as food—these traits establish the condition as "favorable"; Organism B has zero response to the condition due to its traits; Organism C's traits process the exposure but produce waste products that stop other important chemical reactions—establishing the condition as "poisonous"; Organism D detects the exposure and

has traits to make compounds to specifically block it out—these traits alter a "damaging" condition to "not damaging." Without careful analysis, it may appear that environmental stresses are "working on" the organisms, but it is really the organism's traits that are doing all of the work.¹³

So, there are *not* environmental stresses that "favor" one and "punish" another—acting just like human breeders. The concept of "selective pressure" as some external operative force is not real—since "response" is organism-dependent, not stress-dependent. This means that there is no "selective power of nature." The implications of that reality to evolutionary theory are enormous.



How could Darwin's explanation of "selection" become so prevalent, seeing that it was based on an erroneous view of the organism-exposure interface?

It is very understandable in Darwin's day how this confusion could happen, but definitely not for researchers today. People can "see" environmental stresses like droughts, do "see" organisms change, and "see" that creatures fit remarkably well in their environments. Huxley's assertion that environments favor one over another seemed to explain literal observations, given that the genetic basis underlying traits is microscopic and essentially nothing was known then about DNA's relationship to traits and inheritance. In this setting, attribution of power to inanimate environments fit smoothly with humans' tendency to readily project human cognition onto other things—especially when bolstered by the strong analogy to man's ability to select.

The powerful role ascribed to environments to explain the variable success of organisms was misguided because it relied on incomplete visible information. Inexplicably, it still reigns as the accepted explanation, from grade school textbooks through Ph.D. research, conditioning students to view the organism-environment interface from an

improper perspective.

This mix-up has lagged decades behind cellular and genetic research, which now shows that whether one ecology is favorable for some organisms and not others has everything to do with the traits produced by organisms and nothing to do with any so-called selective power of nature. Explanations appealing to environmental causation that depict stresses as discriminators with the ability to “filter” or “select for” an organism’s traits are antiquated.



What is an organism-focused explanation of adaptation, and how does it differ from an environment-focused explanation? Isn't this just a matter of semantics?

Scientifically precise descriptions of adaptation will explain how creatures have intelligence-based systems to reproduce variable heritable traits which comprise their endogenous power to solve environmental problems and enable them to fill earth’s regularly changing ecological niches. Environmental stresses cannot exercise independent causation for traits and are properly viewed as exposures, with influence determined by the organism’s traits. The organism-focused explanation of adaptation is fact-based and elaborates only molecular findings.

This change involves several *radical departures* from selection-based evolutionary thinking. We must:

- Drop the evolutionist’s tainted belief that answers to adaptive change can be reduced to one or several components (e.g., DNA) of organisms—a fallacy basic to their assertions of bit-by-bit origins from individual parts—and begin treating the *entire organism* as the minimum capacity needed to reproduce variable heritable traits that enable it to fill environments.
- Properly identify that the power to solve ecological challenges—adaptation—resides in organisms and not environments, and understand that adaptation must be studied

as an intelligent design issue to accurately commence investigations and write precisely. Treating the environment-organism relationship as the relationship of a problem to its solution is the approach adopted in medical research and biomedical engineering.

- Recognize that environmental stresses just exist as conditions of exposure.
- Drop the environmentalist approach that environments are active and populations of organisms are passively “pressured” to conform; i.e., organismal “responses” (adaptations) are reactions to environmental stimulus.
- Understand that organisms generate measured actions as they are exposed to quantifiably different environmental conditions. Information-based cellular components engage exposures—which reveals an exposure as a problem to solve or opportunity to exploit—for the whole organism’s benefit. Thus, organismal “response” is iterative actions aimed at controlling an exposure, akin to how engineers “respond” to problems.
- See that an organism’s power to adapt does not *necessarily* depend on death and survival. Selection needs death to eliminate unfit DNA from gene pools. But organisms were commanded to “fill the earth” before the Fall. Adopting a functional definition of fitness is based on measuring for a given exposure how well an organism’s traits are physiologically compatible and extract resources (i.e., are “suitable to”). Creatures need not struggle in life and death; they only need to express traits that “fit” an ecological niche in order to fill it.
- Embrace the *search for purpose* as a guide for biological research to encourage the broadest array of questions and the testing of all possible explanations.

Explanations of adaptation that focus on the organism flow directly from the findings of current cellular, developmental, and genetic information. The disconnect missed by believers

in environmental selection and the real ways that organisms adapt is this: They always use selection as an *external* “force” that works on an organism from the outside, but must define selection as a “process” whose interrelated elements are, strangely, the actual outworking of the organism’s own *internal* capacities to reproduce variable heritable traits.¹⁴

So, everything about adaptations is innate to an organism, but in the paradoxical thinking of environmentalism, the organism gets “worked on” from the outside. Seeing how the Lord really works through organisms, coupled with recognizing how “selection” is not justified, eliminates this incongruity.

Thus, correctly identifying the source of adaptive power is not just a quibbling over semantics. Doing something yourself, generating traits that solve environmental problems, is the exact opposite of assertions by advocates of selection that the traits are “due to” external environmental stresses. ●

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Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative.



Gaps in the Geologic Column

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.



The geologic column—that presentation of the rock record that places rock strata into various ages—can be intimidating. Because it seems authoritative and we see it so frequently, we sometimes place more faith in it than it actually deserves.

Without a doubt, rocks and rock strata can be characterized by placing them on the column. While many incorrect notions are imbedded in this diagram (most particularly the “absolute” ages given), rock layers really do usually line up the way the drawing presents them. This visual illustration can be a useful tool, especially when considering one rock’s age “relative” to another. But the rock layers are frequently dated by their fossil con-

tent, arranged in the erroneous evolutionary order. How much credence should the Christian creationist place in it?

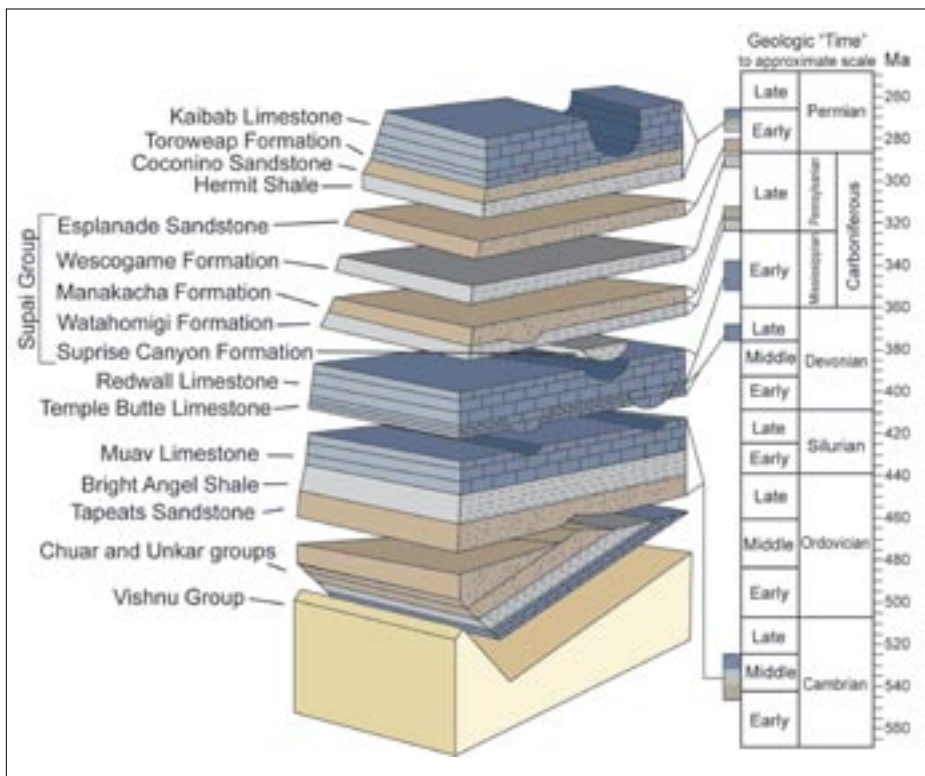
It might help to consider the rock layers in Grand Canyon, since they are so well known and studied in creationist literature. Obviously, the layers rest one on top of another, with no gaps between them. Schematic drawings present them this way, but while the layers are dated consecutively, they are not dated one right after the other. Often there are lengthy time gaps postulated between the layers. The rock record of those time periods is missing. These gaps, called “unconformities,” represent either a period of non-deposition or of erosion.

If the old earth view is correct, then the record is woefully incomplete. Grand Canyon strata are all “dated” in the supposedly 300 million-year-long Paleozoic Era, but of the seven periods within that era, only five are represented in Grand Canyon. More importantly, if the upper and lower surfaces of each stratum are dated by questionable uniformitarian means and plotted on a vertical line showing the entire Paleozoic Era, less than ten percent of the total time postulated by evolutionists is represented! It better represents brief episodes of deposition within the great Flood of Noah’s day.

The geologic column as normally presented should not be considered accurate history and should be recognized as a statement of evolutionary old-earth dogma. There is some truth contained in the geologic column, but not as it is normally taught. Its implications can never

justify doubting God’s truth as recorded in Scripture. ●

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.



The rock layers in Grand Canyon represent only a small portion of the total time postulated by uniformitarians. Their “evidence” for evolutionary time is the space between the layers! They interpret each period as representing many millions of years, but the strata are better understood as brief episodes of deposition during the great Flood of Noah’s day.

Where do physical traits such as height and eye color come from? Biologists say these characteristics are phenotypic (physical) expressions of the genotype—the genetic code. The case for creation can be seen in this amazing genetic code of life. The human body’s trillions of cells use over 75 special kinds of protein and RNA molecules to make one protein following DNA’s detailed instructions. A second genetic code has recently been discovered, adding to the complexity of the already intricate molecule of heredity.¹

What was the *origin* of this code? Was it through chance and time (evolution) or design and organization (creation)? The materialistic explanation (evolution) is the antithesis of biblical creation. Could the origin of the genetic code be just a random event? Hardly.² In fact, a chance origin of biological information is considered by those involved in such research to be inadequate.³ Advocates of evolution must attempt a purely secular explanation of what is quite obviously an intricately and exquisitely designed code. Such explanations are not sufficient, and never will be, outside of the One who created the genetic code.

Evolutionary scientists cannot agree on their theories of the origin of the genetic code. Adam Kun et al stated, “The origin of the ge-

Arithmetic and the Genetic Code

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

netic code is still not fully understood, despite considerable progress in the last decade.⁴ In 2008, an evolutionist from Kazakhstan, Vladimir *shCherbak*, published a paper asserting the strange idea of an arithmetical origin of the genetic code.⁵ Arithmetic is the science of computing and is the oldest, most elementary branch of the larger field of mathematics. Roman arithmetic required the use of a counting board, the ancestor of the abacus. *shCherbak* suggested that a primeval counting frame was responsible for the origin of the genetic code.

He claimed the genetic code contains “the zero, decimal syntax and unique sum-

mations” and that this refutes “traditional ideas about the stochastic origin of the genetic code.”⁶ Atheist David Berlinski reminds us that “evolution is a stochastic process [developing in a statistically random way], one that moves forward by means of inconclusive humps.”⁷ *shCherbak* continued:

Chemical evolution, no matter how long it took, could not possibly have stumbled on the arithmetical language and initialized the decimalization of the genetic code. Physics and chemistry can neither make such abstractions nor fit the genetic code out with them. It seems that the genetic code appeared as pure information like arithmetic did.⁸

shCherbak is correct; chemical evolution, chemistry, and physics utterly fail to explain in any way the origin of the genetic code. Sadly, his explanation of this code’s appearance via arithmetic through “some primordial abacus at least three and a half billion years ago” is hardly scientific or satisfying.⁹

“While the biochemical details of this code were unraveled long ago, its origin is still obscure,” lamented evolutionist Tsvi Tlusty.¹⁰

Secular explanations for the origin of the sophisticated genetic code point to either the unknown or something like a “primordial abacus.” The only other alternative is a supernatural agency. The genetic code is the result of the purposeful arrangement of parts—*design*, implying a Designer, as Genesis clearly portrays. ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate, Senior Lecturer, and Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



The Genetic Decline of Humanity

B R I A N T H O M A S , M . S .

In 1993, Lori Oliwenstein wrote in *Discover* magazine:

From the first cell that coalesced in the primordial soup to the magnificent intricacies of *Homo sapiens*, the evolution of life—as everyone knows—has been one long drive toward greater complexity. The only trouble with what everyone knows... is that there is no evidence it's true.¹

There's not much support for evolutionary notions of mankind growing ever fitter. Just as there is no escape from death, there is no escape from biological attrition. Fossils, genetics, and history point to a relentless decline of humankind.

Fossil human bones show that men were much stronger in the past. Neanderthals were ancient people who lived in caves ranging mostly from Europe to Israel. "One of the most characteristic features of the Neanderthals is the exaggerated massiveness of their trunk and limb bones. All of the preserved bones suggest a strength seldom attained by modern humans."²

Anthropologist Peter McAllister researched fossil human footprints in Australia and found that whoever made those tracks had more speed than champion sprinter Usain Bolt.³ Also, European Paleolithic sites show that humans were larger then and have experienced a "marked decline in stature" from which they have not yet recovered.⁴

Declining size and strength appear

consistent with the overall genetic decline seen both in gene sequence studies⁵ and the mutation-tracking program called Mendel's Accountant. Mutations change complicated coded cellular information, and most have almost no effect on cells. Each tiny change has so small an impact that it is not detected or removed by the cells' genetic repair mechanisms. Simulations using biologically realistic parameters, like 60 mutations and six children per generation, clearly show that fitness decreases every generation.⁶

The relentless accumulation of these genetic corruptions steadily corrodes the original genetic code: "If useless (or harmful) mutations are passed on to the next generations, they will form an increasingly large ballast of unusable material."⁷

Early writings describe heroes of great strength. The Epic of Gilgamesh depicts the real historical Sumerian King Gilgamesh as extraordinarily strong, having fought a dragon-like beast. Many other written legends tell of ancient powerfully built men. Beowulf "was firmly set in history. He was born the son of Ecgtheow in AD 495" and was famous for his size, which enabled him to fight gigantic reptiles that are now extinct in Denmark.⁸

Scripture also describes people who were taller and stronger than today. Goliath was well over nine feet tall, and his "coat of mail" weighed about 125 pounds, in addition to other battle gear he carried.⁹ Also, the

Israelites slew Og of Bashan, who was about 14 feet tall.¹⁰ Lifespans also dramatically decreased, as recorded in Genesis 11, again showing biological losses, not gains.

This cycle of inevitable decay began when sin and death entered the world. Fortunately, the Bible proclaims that Christ has conquered death and provides redemption from sin. Salvation comes by believing "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."¹¹ For those who believe, Christ will ultimately "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body."¹² ●

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- Hobrink, B. 2011. *Modern Science in the Bible*. New York: Howard Books, 140.
- Cooper, B. 1994. *After the Flood*. Chichester, UK: New Wine Press, 148.
- 1 Samuel 17:5.
- Deuteronomy 3:11.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
- Philippians 3:21.

Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.





SETH TROTMAN

CHRISTINE
DAO

The Institute for Creation Research is dedicated to equipping believers with evidence from science and the Bible to strengthen their faith and to prepare them to minister to others. Its degree program, the School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA), is designed to provide graduate-level training in biblical education and apologetics with a solid foundation in Scripture.

Among those in SOBA's first graduating class is Seth Trotman, ICR's web applications developer. Working within the Internet Ministries department, he's responsible for maintaining ICR's various websites and designing and implementing new tools, features, and sites.

He became interested in apologetics a few years ago after taking a systematic theology course offered by his church. "Of the 25 participants in that class, I was one out of only two people who believed in creation as the Bible states," he said. "Then about a year later, I came to work for ICR. God really directed me towards this ministry."

When he started work at ICR in July 2008, he enrolled in the Creationist Worldview, ICR's online, self-paced certificate program for professionals.

"[The Creationist Worldview] was really eye-opening," he said. "After completing the program in early 2009, I began searching for 'the next thing' I could do to help me 'be ready always to give...a reason of the hope that is in [me].'"

He chose to attend SOBA, which launched in the fall of 2009, because of the subject matter and the convenience of the classes offered at ICR's campus. "Since I work at ICR and since classes were held on campus, it was easy for me to just stay late and attend

classes. I have a very large family, and I cherish my time with them. SOBA allowed me to attend classes without going to a separate place."

The highlight of his coursework, he said, was the faculty. "Being able to learn from instructors like [Drs. Stanley Toussaint, Jobe Martin, Jim Johnson, and others] was a dream come true. I remember going home from my first class with Dr. Toussaint; I was so in awe of his ability to exegete Scripture. It highlighted for me exactly how much more there was to learn."

On November 12, 2011, Trotman graduated with his Master of Christian Education degree and a joint major in Biblical Education and Apologetics. His minors were in Genesis Studies, Sacred Humanities, and Christian School Teaching.

"As a homeschooling father of seven children, I intend to pass on the sure knowledge of God as Creator," he said. "I am also currently investigating entry into a local Th.D. program to further deepen that knowledge so I can continue to glorify Him through this passion He has awakened within me.

"SOBA is now available completely online, and I would encourage anyone with a desire to learn more about how accurate the Bible really is and what evidences there are that demonstrate that to go through the program."

Visit www.icr.edu/soba and take our online tour to learn more about ICR's School of Biblical Apologetics. ●

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor at the Institute for Creation Research.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I wanted to thank Brian Thomas for giving us a tour of your facilities today and for explaining the fossil record to our family. He did a tremendous job in answering all of our questions. This has left a very favorable impression on our family, and hopefully, our church as we take this back to share with our Sunday school class and others. I'm very excited about your mission and the work you have already accomplished.

— T.B.

The articles in *Days of Praise* which I am receiving daily are power-filled. God is directly talking to me through them. They are unique and the thoughts in them are really wonderful. God is even using them in guiding me. I thank you very much. The ICR website itself is excellent. Thank you very much.

— A.R.

The "That's a Fact" [online video] presentations are wonderful! They are accurate and God-honoring. May the Lord prosper this project and bring many to see them and consider the claims of Christ.

— J.S.

I have enjoyed your *Acts & Facts* magazine along with your *Days of Praise*. I also have a small library of the books offered each month in the *Acts & Facts* magazine. *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* I find most helpful because it is written in layman's language—easy to understand by us non-scientists. All the material in the *Acts & Facts* and the books offered by ICR, I find most helpful as I write

letters to the Opinion Page in our daily newspaper, exposing the lie of "evo-religion."

— C.P.

I am a secondary education major with an emphasis in Earth Science. I just wanted to let all the folks at ICR know what an encouragement you have been through my time at school. I have your web site set as my home page as a reality check before I head to class and swallow some of the poor information that is taught as fact. I can't express how much the articles have bolstered my faith in the reality that we have an awesome Creator who gives us purpose and life! Thanks!

— T.S.

I get the *Days of Praise* by email every morning, which I LOVE! I've been enjoying them for years. Each one makes me think and contemplate on the Word of God each morning. I'm so surprised that it took me this long to notice, but the Lord in His wisdom chose the perfect name when He named Dr. Henry Morris. After this morning's devotional, I said out loud to myself "Hmm" as I was thinking. And there were Dr. Morris' initials, HMM. I can't believe I didn't notice before! Not only names, but initials are divinely inspired! Thanks for your continued work!

— P.H.

Thank you for the books and tapes. *The Fossil Record* was excellent! They are a wonderful addition to our library. We will enjoy sharing them with our grandchildren as they grow. We bought many books from ICR in

the 1980s.... [When we first learned of ICR] we had seen Drs. Henry Morris and Duane Gish on Jerry Falwell's TV show. We were so impressed with them and excited to finally have materials available to combat evolution. That's when we started adding your books to our library. Our children used those materials to write papers at school and we used them for many Bible studies. We feel like you are family and we thank God that we can help support the ministry, which we consider a privilege. In today's society it is getting more and more difficult to find true believers who do not waver. We are thankful that we can always count on ICR to present truths as you continue to stand on Christ, our solid rock. May God continue to bless each and every one of you and the ministry.

— L.&C.R.

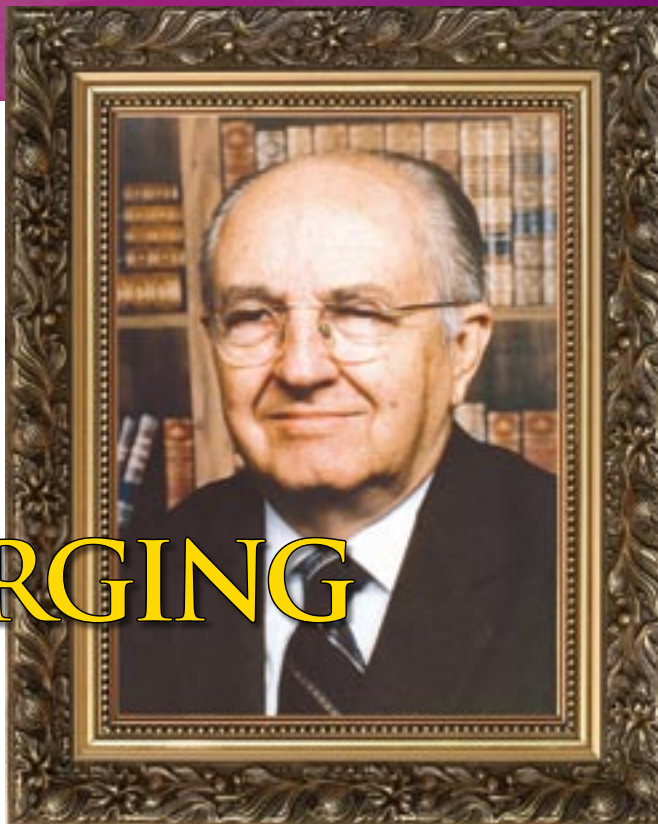
This is a long overdue thank-you letter. I enjoy both your *Days of Praise* and *Acts & Facts* publications very much! Over the years I have often saved "Impact" articles and many others, especially articles about famous Bible-believing Christian scientists. These articles I have organized by topics and into subject groups in a three-ring notebook. Our Christian breakfast fellowship group shares and discusses these articles which strengthen our faith in the almighty, wonderful God that we worship. Thank you, again.

— W.U.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org.

Or write to Editor
P. O. Box 59029
Dallas, Texas 75229

ENLARGING THE TENT



H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I V

Six years ago this month, ICR's founder Dr. Henry Morris was called home to heaven, marking the end of an extraordinarily fruitful life in service to the Lord. And while the home-going of any believer is an unusual mix of sorrow and joy—for all believers shall be reunited one day (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)—the passing of our founder was an especially uncertain time for those of us at ICR. How could we continue the work of such a remarkable man whom God used so profoundly in the defense of the faith?

Many solid Christian ministries decline once a founder has retired or passed away. Even with ICR's long-time transition plan in place, this was certainly on our minds as we looked toward the ministry's future. Yet the distinctives established by our founder, most notably ICR's total commitment to the authority of Scripture, have served us well as God has marvelously guided and provided in the years that followed. And by God's direct blessing, ICR has continued to "enlarge the place of [our] tent" (Isaiah 54:2) through new ministry outlets that have enabled ICR to reach more people today than ever before.

ICR's expanded influence is most easily seen in the stunning outreach of our multi-

faceted Internet ministries, many of which did not exist when our founder passed into glory. The ICR website, the first of its kind dedicated to biblical scientific creationism, has been enhanced over time and today hosts millions of visitors each year. Our online education ministries—offered through the Creationist Worldview professional certificate course, the School of Biblical Apologetics graduate program, and our new Science Essentials blog—have equipped thousands of Christian leaders, teachers, and laymen to effectively influence their world with the truth of Scripture. And our newest online initiative, the *That's a Fact* series of online creation video programs, has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people in just the last few months. Clearly the Lord has blessed our efforts as the truth of creation and the message of our Creator have spread all over the world.

Scientific research continues to be a core emphasis at ICR as we have shifted our focus over time from geology to the exciting fields of biology and genetics—and our research team is yielding some equally exciting preliminary results. If it can be shown that genetic change is limited within the major "kinds" (Genesis 1), the possibility of evolutionary change from a

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(Galatians 6:9-10)

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single common ancestor must be completely and utterly false. Much work still remains, but this research would be yet another nail in the coffin for the evolutionary (and atheistic) worldview.

Then, too, ICR has completely revamped *Acts & Facts* into the beautiful magazine you now hold in your hands, while producing several significant new books, K-12 curriculum, CDs and DVDs, and many other new resources over the past six years. Many of these materials are given away as part of our ministry, as God's provision through His people has allowed us to do. I am certain our founder would be pleased with this practice and the overall ICR ministry today. We invite you to join us, through your prayers and gifts of support, to continue this vibrant work while the Lord tarries. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations at the Institute for Creation Research.



Love and the Heart

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

(*Matthew 22:37*)

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S , P H . D .

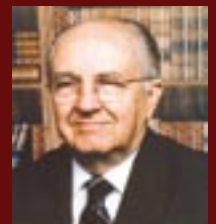
According to Jesus, this is “the great commandment of the law” and this is also the first verse in the New Testament to associate “love” and the “heart.” This “love,” of course, is not romantic love (the Greek word for *that* love is never used in the New Testament at all), but the divine type of love (Greek, *agape*), as in “God so loved the world.”

The “heart” (Greek, *kardia*, from which come such English words as cardiology) is mentioned often in the Bible, but almost never means the actual physical organ. It refers to the emotional and spiritual components of man’s nature—“the hidden man of the heart” (1 Peter 3:4). We use “heart” for the same purposes in English. Just how February 14 came to celebrate the heart as a symbol of romantic love and to be called Valentine’s Day is uncertain. There were various emperors, popes, and religious leaders named Valentine in the early history of Christendom, including two Roman Catholics designated as Saint Valentine. In any case, Christians should remember that true Christian *agape* love should be manifested in our lives every day of the year. To that end, “see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (1 Peter 1:22). True Christian love can only be expressed out of a heart that has been made pure. As Paul wrote young Timothy, “Now the end of the commandment is charity [that is, *agape* love] out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned” (1 Timothy 1:5).

And remember that, first of all, we must “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:30).

Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Love and the Heart” in the winter 2003 *Days of Praise*.

Dr. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.



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